

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 25-35, 47 and 55-63 are pending. In the Final Office Action mailed 22 May 2003, claims 23, 25-35, 47, and 55-63 were rejected. Claims 23, 28, 32, 35, 55, and 60 are amended. No new matter has been introduced.

CLAIMS 23, 25-35 47, and 55-63 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY HILL

Amended claim 23 explicitly recites that at method step (d), modification of a portion of the first coating that is over-coated by the second coating so as to alter a characteristic of the first coating occurs "during formation of said pattern".

As understood by applicant, the Examiner's rejection of unamended claim 23 as being anticipated by Hill '609 was directed to such changes as Hill's coatings might undergo due to the "external environment taught by Hill (see col. 15, lines 44-68)". Even if it is assumed that ambient lighting conditions might alter Hill's coatings, it is apparent that such alterations occur after the Hill device and coatings have been manufactured. By contrast, amended claim 23 explicitly states that step (d) is directed to first coating modification that occurs during (i.e., not after) formation of applicant's pattern.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 23 includes at least one step not found in Hill. Thus, neither amended independent claim 23, nor claims 25-27 and 55-59, which depend from claim 23, are anticipated by Hill.

Amended claim 28 recite at method step (c) that the first coating that is being applied has "a first coating portion whose shape is modifiable by energy applied during said method of forming", and that after completion of step (d), "said first coating portion is modified during said forming a laminate pattern of coatings". The above language follows the subject matter of allowable claim 24, and further distinguishes from Hill and such effects as ambient environmental conditions might have upon portions of Hill's product after the fact.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 28 includes at least one step not found in Hill. Thus, neither amended independent claim 28, nor claims 29-31 and 47, which depend from claim 28, are anticipated by Hill.

Amended claims 32 and 60, recite at method step (c) that the first coating that is being applied has "a first coating portion whose shape is modifiable by energy applied during said method of forming." The above language follows the subject matter of allowable claim 24, and further distinguishes from Hill and such effects as ambient environmental conditions might have upon portions of Hill's product after the fact.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 32 and 60 include at least one step not found in Hill. Thus, neither amended independent claims 32 and 60, nor claims 33-35 and 61-63, which depend from claims 32 and 60, respectively, are anticipated by Hill.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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